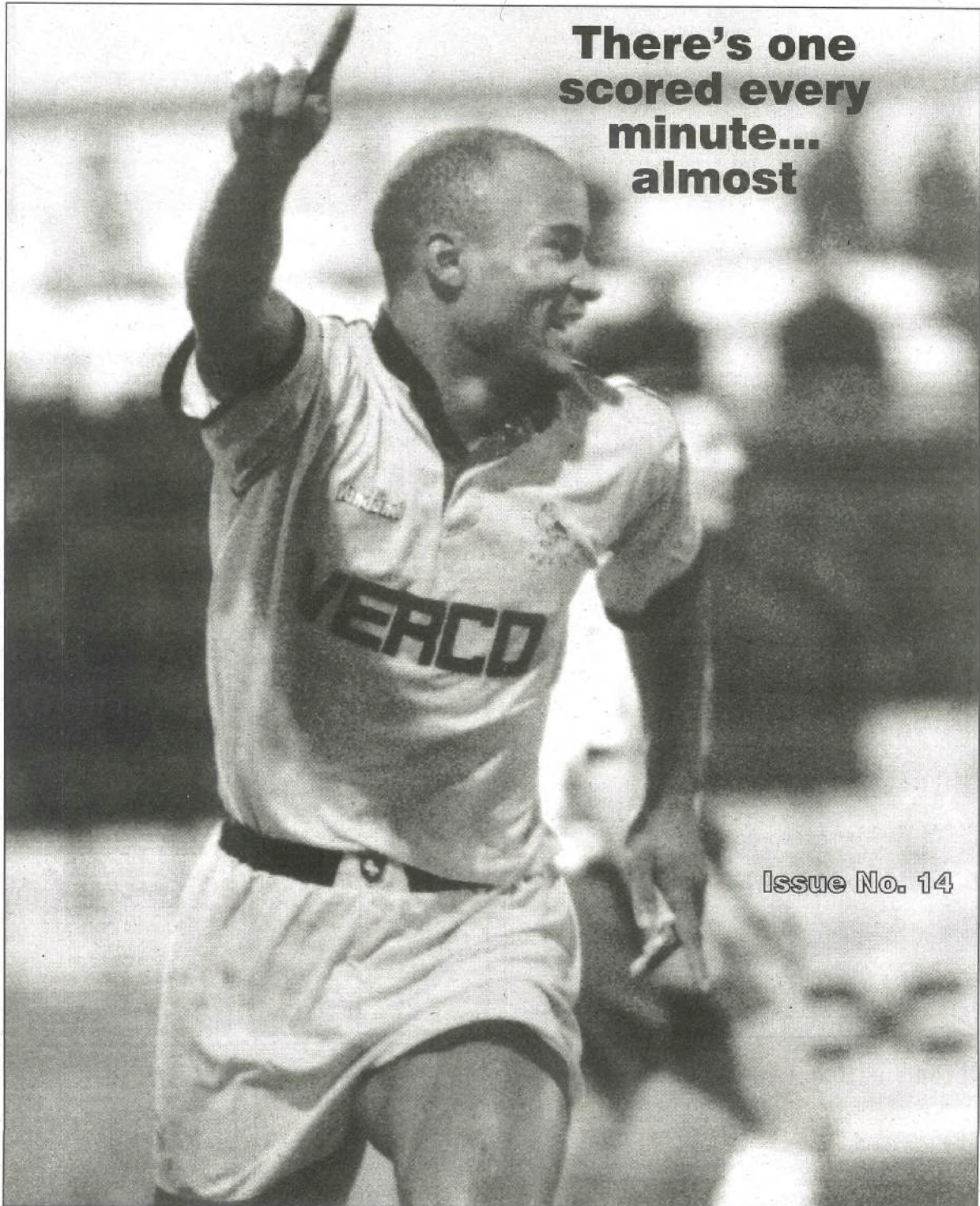




The **BLUES NEWS**

The official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club



**There's one
scored every
minute...
almost**

Issue No. 14

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THE BLUES NEWS

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Pictures for this edition were supplied by Wycombe Wanderers and the Bucks Free Press.

The Blues News is the official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers. It is produced in association with the Bucks Free Press. Any correspondence should be sent to the Editor, The Blues News, Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, Hillbottom Road, Sands, High Wycombe. Telephone (01494) 472100. Fax (01494) 527633.

■ Front cover: Miguel Desouza celebrates scoring his first goal for Wycombe Wanderers at Chester two weeks ago. He has netted four more since then.

Join in with scheme to go mad in March

THE club have tried to reward our loyal regular supporters and at the same time encourage newcomers, particularly youngsters, to Adams Park this season.

The special Members Day on January 21 was supposed to fulfil both objectives, but as we all know the Wrexham game was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch until Tuesday, April 11. As a result we had to give out the £20-worth of Club Shop vouchers, we were going to hand out on January 21, at the Blackpool match, as they expire on April 1. All the other Members' Day special offers simply switch to the re-arranged date for the Wrexham match (ko 7.45pm).

The Family Terrace will be launched tomorrow at the Rotherham United match by Bluey the Swan, no doubt armed with sweets and WWFC foam hands for the younger children. Our commitment to the family ethos and entertainment for all our supporters has led to "March Madness." At every home league game in March, the club will provide something "extra" for our fans. Also during March, every single sponsor and advertiser has been invited to a match as our guests to thank them for all they do for the club.

- **March Madness events:**
 ● March 4 - Stockport County - RAFSPA Hawks Freefall Parachute Display
 ● March 7 - Bradford City - Special Matchday Programme Prizes
 ● March 18 - Birmingham City (All Ticket) - Extra half-time Entertainment
 ● March 25 - Crewe Alexandra - National Family Day, "Quid-a-Kid"
 ● March 28 - Peterborough United - Blues' Spot the Ball on elevenSEVENTY AM

MARCH MADNESS
By
Wanderers
Marketing
Manager
Mark Austin



All those who attended the Torquay United League match last Easter will not forget the first visit of the RAFSPA Hawks. While the first two parachutists hit the target in the centre circle, two members of the display team linked for too long and ended up in the woods adjacent to Adams Park.

Fortunately the two lads were OK, although too embarrassed to appear at half time to prove they were fine and do the matchday draw. We were all just grateful they missed the electricity pylons behind the Amersham & Wycombe College Stand.

Due to the success of their first visit the club has booked them again for Saturday, March 4. They will descend from 4,000 feet sometime before the teams come out. It is recommended that everyone wishing to see the display arrives at Adams Park by 2.30pm to ensure they do not miss anything.

The parachutists will again be delivering the matchball and giving away T-shirts to the crowd on arrival, as last year.

We are launching a competition in this issue of the Blues News to give away 48 free tickets in the Bucks Free Press Stand for the Bradford City match on March 7.

To enter, all you have to do is correctly answer three questions to go into the hat. There are 24 chances to win, as the club is giving away 24 pairs of tickets. The other main highlight of the month will be the



Let's go crazy: Blues' fans get in the mood for the 'extras' of March

National Family Day on March 25, when it will be only a "Quid-a-Kid" for those who are still under 16 on May 31, 1995. This will apply to both home and away fans.

Also from Saturday 25 to Tuesday, March 28, Wycombe Wanderers will be giving away 100 match tickets for the Division Two match against Peterborough United at Adams Park on elevenSEVENTY AM. The Blues' Spot the Ball Competition on our local radio station will give 25 families of four free Bucks Free Press Stand tickets to watch Peterborough United on Tuesday, March 28 (ko 7.45pm).

March Madness will be swiftly followed by Members Night at our next home match against Wrexham. It is

likely that, in addition to the existing special offers open to Members (i.e. Season Ticket Holders, Blues Club, League Line, Blues Super Cashline, Junior Blues, Senior Blues, True Blues and Blues Travel Club) on Members Night, a new set of Club-shop vouchers will be issued, in addition to the ones that were issued at the Blackpool match. All existing complimentary and reduced entry tickets remain valid.

Please retain any tickets you purchased dated on January 21 as they will be needed to gain entry to re-arranged Wrexham game. This match comes just before the all-ticket match against our local rivals Oxford United on Saturday, April 15.

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THE BLUES NEWS

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Mixed results have been frustrating

I'M sure that you would all want to join me in wishing Keith Ryan a speedy recovery from his knee injury. He will be greatly missed and very hard to replace.

The recent postponement of the Wrexham and York games did at least give me some extra recovery time from some niggly injuries, but on the down side we now have a backlog of games that we need to be played in the last few weeks of the season which will be difficult.

The game at Rotherham was evenly spread with both sides creating some good chances. In the end we gifted them two goals which was very unfortunate for Steve Brown who has been improving with every game. Brownie was deservedly named supporters' player of the month for December.

Sometimes a very simple mistake at the back can present the opposition with a chance. If it leads to a goal, it is then of course highlighted whereas good basic defending week in, week out is taken for granted.

Up front, it seemed like one of those days when your luck is out. We put plenty of pressure on their goal. When Simon Garner hit the post late on, it just about summed up our day.

We then had to wait over two weeks for the next league game against Chester. Our new signing, Miguel DeSouza, scored his first ever League goal and then proceeded to mark his debut with another to put the game beyond our hosts.

I was very pleased we kept a clean sheet away from home in what were perhaps the worst conditions we are likely to experience this season. Had the torrential rain which fell in the second half decided to come down before the game had started, it would surely have been called off.

The following game at home to Blackpool, another side in contention for a play-off place, turned out to be a game of two halves. After taking the lead early on, we then started to put good pressure on their defence. If an excellent 20-yard drive from Staples not been well-saved or if Garn's shot against the bar had gone in, we could have killed

CAPTAIN'S LOG
By Terry Evans



them off by half time. But after the break they scored within two minutes from a free kick. The referee judged that I had handled the ball on the edge of the box which was very frustrating as it actually came off my leg.

The club video might just prove this but even so, it is annoying when decisions go against you, especially when they lead to a goal. From then on it became a very open game.

We must clearly finish sides off when they are on the ropes instead of letting them back into the game. This was another lesson for us which I hope we can learn from.

One of our problems is clearly the lack of goals we score however. We should not just look to the forwards, the whole team must take responsibility in creating and converting chances.

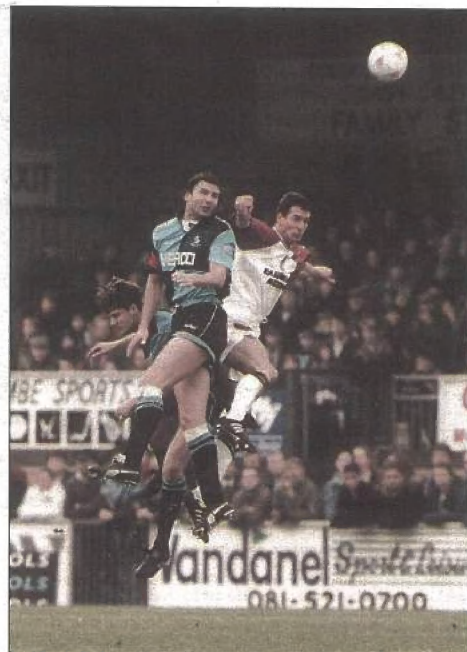
Our record shows that we are one of the better sides in the League defensively. We cover and support each other well but we must work hard to duplicate this when going forward.

I am pleased to confirm that Jason Cousins has recently signed a new contract which will keep him at the club until the end of the 1996/97 season. He is still improving as a player which leads me to believe that we have still not seen the very best of him.

I was recently asked to be the guest speaker at the quarterly meeting of the Ealing Referees Association.

They did invite me last year but because of injury I was unable to attend. It was decided that they would run through their agenda in the normal way then it would be down to me to speak.

The 30 or so referees were relaxed and the atmosphere was good, I therefore, did not want to stand at the front to deliver a prepared speech. So it was suggested that I would talk for a few minutes about how I started in the



Tough at the top: Good basic defending, one of Wycombe's strengths, is often taken for granted, says Terry

game, highlighting my career to date before inviting them to fire questions at me.

I must admit to not being too excited at the prospect of spending an evening surrounded by 'the men in black' but it turned out to be an excellent night with good questions and discussion from some real characters. I did at first feel a little embarrassed when I won first prize in the raffle but after listening to the moans, groans and cries of 'fix', it did make me smile to have the roles reversed for once.

A committee member told me that there is always a guest speaker of some description present who generally leaves by 9pm, but as we were so engrossed

talking football, I didn't notice that it was past 11pm before we finished!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to Mr. Channon, an orthopaedic surgeon, and Mr. Pettingill, an osteopath, who have seen both myself and other members of the squad at very short notice.

When a player has a problem which cannot be dealt with by Dave Jones within the club, it is very important that an appointment is made and treatment administered quickly to aid a speedy recovery. These men are always very busy but they constantly fit any of us in which is much appreciated.

LETTER

The Wanderers turned me into a football addict

Dear Blues News,
UNTIL May 1994 I had only been to one football match in my life. I was nine years old and had to spend over 90 minutes standing on a biscuit tin. I was put off football for life. I couldn't understand why men would want to play the game or why people would pay to watch!

That was until Wycombe got in the play-offs for Division Two promotion and I was asked to go. After some time and great deliberation, I agreed to go.

After the drive and a fair walk, we arrived at Wembley and found our seats. I sat back and I remember looking around. I'd never seen so many happy people.

With the game underway, I was amazed at the speed it was played. I don't think I talked from the first minute until half time.

Forty five minutes earlier I knew nothing about football, yet now there I was talking about how Wycombe were going to come out and win, and they did with a superb goal by Simon Garner and two by Dave Carroll to clinch promotion to Division Two.

When the whistle went there was a scene which I will never forget.

Life

I couldn't wait until August - the start of a new season and a new life for me. Week after week, I take my place to the right behind the goal, away matches as well as those at home.

Now here we are half way through the season, and, having just watched the third round with West Ham, I felt I had to write this letter.

It was my first time watching a Premiership club live and to me it was one of the best games I have seen.

Others were Huddersfield at home, how Martin can work wonders, and away to Oxford. If ever we needed to win away that was it.

There was also Peterborough, when there was a great away crowd who really got behind the team, and away to Birmingham at their new stadium. For us to come away with three points was brilliant.

To sum up this letter, I would like to say 'good luck' to Wycombe; keep crossing them in Mickey Bell. Huddersfield in the play-off finals would be a good result. Thanks for all the enjoyment you have given me over the past five months and I look forward to the rest of the season.

Michael Higgs,
Aylesbury

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THE BLUES NEWS

Climb every mountain



By
Wanderers
Director
Alan Parry

I HAVE never tried to challenge my old mate John 'Mr Statistic' Motson when it comes to using facts and figures to prove a point... until now!

Did you realise that when Blackpool recently forced a draw at Adams Park, they became the first team from the leading clubs in Division Two to take so much as one measly point from Wycombe Wanderers this season?

Remarkably, we have taken maximum points from all the clubs who have occupied the top six places for most of the season, such as Birmingham, Brentford, Huddersfield, Oxford and Crewe. Played six, won six.

Some of you will be nodding wisely and thinking: "All very well, but why do we always struggle against the teams at the bottom?" This seems to be a common misconception.

Taking the clubs who filled the bottom nine places in Division Two, on the day we played Blackpool, our record reads: won six, drew four, lost none.

Pretty impressive stuff, eh? Eat your heart out, Motson! At the time of writing, the only clubs who have managed to beat the Wanderers this season are all marooned in mid-table - Stockport, Bradford, Wrexham, Rotherham and Hull. The latter are the only team to leave Adams Park with all three points.

I think that those statistics are a fitting tribute to Wycombe's consistent form over the first half of our first ever season in this division. With 26 League games completed, we boasted the proud record of 14 victories, seven draws and just five defeats.

A points haul of 49 from 26 games represents promotion form. The hard part is maintaining it over the second half of the season, of course.

Even assuming that injuries,



Pointing the way: Miguel Desouza's goal forced Blackpool on to the back foot at Adams Park, but the visitors scraped a draw

fatigue, etc, take their toll and the team struggles to reproduce their earlier form, we are still in a wonderful position to clinch a play-off place for the second successive season.

Since the play-off system was amended to allow four qualifying places, anything between 69 and 74 points has been enough to secure a place.

On that basis, Wanderers would need something like 25 points from our remaining matches to be virtually certain of a place in the play-off - remember, I am writing this before our trip to Shrewsbury, so we'll hopefully be another three points closer to the target by now!

I am sure everyone would agree

that 25 from a possible 60 points is an achievable target, but it will still take some doing.

One thing is guaranteed - we are certainly in for another exciting finale to our season and that has been the case ever since Martin O'Neill arrived.

The month of March, in particular, looks like being really special - eight games, five of them at home, which could well decide our destiny.

We play Stockport, Bradford, Birmingham, Crewe and Peterborough at Adams Park and Bristol Rovers, York and Brentford away. Big games, big crowds - and very big stakes.

I often think how lucky we are to

be involved with a club where there's never a dull end to the season.

Sadly, I don't possess a crystal ball. If I did, I'd be writing this from a villa in Barbados - but I have made a few educated guesses about how our remaining games could turn out.

Only speculation, of course - and Martin and the players would throttle me if I revealed my thoughts.

But suffice to say, I believe we are good enough to win a few more games yet and I won't be making any plans for a holiday in May!

A couple of people asked me recently if Wycombe will be good enough to survive if they got promoted to Division One and wouldn't

it be better to consolidate in the Second Division for another year.

Well, my answer to that is - nonsense!

This club may never again have a better chance of being promoted to Division One than this season. We must snatch the opportunity if it comes and worry about the future once we've secured it.

I have always been an optimist who despises negative thoughts and I hope that every one of you out there feels the same way. We've got our fingertips on the edge of the mountain - one last big effort by all concerned and we could haul ourselves up to the summit once again.

To quote the title of our official club video for last season: "The only way is up."

Profiles

PLAYER PROFILE

PERSONAL DETAILS

Full name: Juan-Miguel Desouza
Date of birth: November 2, 1970
Height: 5ft 11in
Weight: 13st 7lb
Home: London
Car: Mazda MX3
Married: Engaged
Children: One son, aged four-and-a-half
Dad's job: Security
Brothers & sisters: Two brothers, one sister
Family pets: Gold fish called Perky
Nickname at club: Open to suggestions

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Who do you share a room with on away trips? Bert! My brown Teddy. Does he have any annoying habits? He pushes me off the bed! What was your ambition as a child? To play football. What is your ambition now? To play in the Premiership. Who was your boyhood hero? Eusebio. What has been your biggest thrill in life? The birth of my son Reiss-Andre. What is your saddest moment in football? Relegation with Birmingham. Which present-day footballer do you admire most? Ian Wright. Who is the greatest player there has ever been? Pele. Who has been the greatest influence on your career? Myself.



Who is the toughest opponent you have faced? Usually the ref. Do you have any superstitions before a game? Yes. Which manager has been the biggest influence on your career? Peter Eustace. What job would you be doing if you hadn't made it as a footballer? Printer. Away from football, what has been your greatest sporting achievement? I reached the English schools finals in athletics. What is the funniest moment you have seen on a football pitch? Liam Daish getting sent off for blowing a trumpet during a game. What was your most embarrassing moment in football? I once scored two own goals in the same game. What is the oddest piece of training you have had to do? Water aerobics (very strange).

Which team did you support as a boy? West Ham Utd. What is your favourite ground? White Hart Lane. What other sports and hobbies do you enjoy? Cricket, golf. Do you have any unusual food that improves your game? No. Away from football, who is your favourite sportsman? Linford Christie. What is your most prized possession? Family life. Do you play any musical instruments? Try to play the blues on my harmonica. Is there a sporting dream you would have liked to have achieved in another sport? To win the Gold Medal at the Olympic Games, 100 metres. What really annoys you in football? The opposition. What are you pet hates outside football? Drugs and racism. FAVOURITES TV programme: Garfield and Friends. Food: Italian, Cantonese. Drink: Water. Film: The Long Good Friday. Film stars: Bob Hoskins, Denzel Washington. Holiday resort: Aya Naps - Cyprus. TV stars: David Jason. Comedian: Anyone who makes me laugh! City: London. Soap characters: Reg Holdsworth. LP: Bob Marley, The Legend. Compiled by Steve Hayes.

COMMUNITY OFFICER PROFILE

PERSONAL DETAILS

Full name: Jim Melvin
Date of birth: August 5, 1957.
Height: 6ft
Weight: 14st
Home: Burnham
Car: Mondeo
Married: Yes
Children: Stuart, ten.
Dad's job: He was a headteacher
Brothers & sisters: Brendan

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Who do you share a room with on away trips? I shared with Paul Franklin. Does he have any annoying habits? Wearing a wet suit and a fireman's helmet. What was your ambition as a child? To play for Celtic. What is your ambition now? To see my son play and be successful. Who was your boyhood hero? Billy McNeill. What has been your biggest thrill in life? Seeing my son born. What has been your biggest disappointment in life? When my father passed away. What is your saddest moment in football? Hillsborough. Which present-day footballer do you admire most? Eric Cantona. Who is the greatest player there has ever been? Kenny Dalglish/George Best. Who has been the greatest



influence on your career? My parents. Who is the toughest opponent you have faced? Les Ferdinand - when he was at Hayes. Which manager has been the biggest influence on your career? Willie Ferrie - youth coach at Celtic. What job would you be doing if you hadn't made it as a footballer? I tried music. I was so good that I am back here! Away from football, what has been your greatest sporting achievement? Playing for the West of Scotland at volleyball. What is the funniest moment you have seen on a football pitch? Every time Graeme Souness got sent off at Ibrox - most weeks! What was your most embarrassing moment in football? Getting released.

Which team did you support as a boy? Celtic. What is your favourite ground? Old Trafford. What other sports and hobbies do you enjoy? Music. Do you have any unusual food that improves your game? Anything! It still couldn't improve my game. Away from football, who is your favourite sportsman? Mohammed Ali. What is your most prized possession? A 1967 European Cup Final programme from Lisbon (Celtic 2, Inter Milan 1). Do you play any musical instruments? I was a pro-drummer with A & M Records. What really annoys you in football? Referees or the lack of them. What are you pet hates outside football? Bad manners and liars.

FAVOURITES

TV programme: NYPD Blue
Pop star/group: Michael Bolton/Simple Minds
Food: Chicken
Drink: Lager
Film: Running Scared
Film stars: Bob Hoskins/Billy Crystal
Holiday resort: Italy
TV stars: Jimmy Nail/David Jason
Comedian: Billy Connolly/Robin Williams
City: Rio Di Janeiro

Compiled by Steve Hayes

THE BLUES NEWS

5

Stalwart John soldiers on

WYCOMBE Wanderers Football Club have had many great servants in the course of their history, stout yeoman dedicated to furthering the Chairboys' cause. But few could rival the extent and indeed sheer variety of sterling support offered by the new club secretary, John Reardon.

Officially appointed at the start of this year, his post is simply the latest in a string of positions that he has held at the club. Short of serving burgers or climbing into the Bluey the Swan outfit, there aren't many left to do.

The story begins back in 1950, when a young footballer from South Wales was on the Arsenal books. National service with the RAF and a somewhat nonchalant attitude to professional opportunities - now deeply regretted - kept him in amateur football. But Arsenal's loss was Wycombe's gain - eventually.

A senior debut with Slough at the age of 22 led to two seasons at Maidenhead. He came to Wycombe's, presumably, rather irritated attention as part of the Maidenhead squad that beat them 2-1 in the 1957 Berks and Bucks Cup Final. He was treading the famous sloping pitch of Loakes Park the very next season.



John Reardon

Halfway through that season, on January 25, 1958, it was a case of, 'you may kiss the bride, briefly, and then pull on a quartered shirt and do your duty for the boys in blue!'

Within a few short hours, John had been married, thumped Winchester City 6-0, scored the final goal and returned to his blushing bride Carole with a fair bit to celebrate.

After leaving Wycombe, he returned to Maidenhead, and then moved to Chesham United, where he played and subsequently became manager at the end of the 1966-67 season. One year later, John had achieved the astonishing landmark of guiding Chesham to the Amateur Cup Final at Wembley, where they narrowly lost to Leytonstone.

Before the year was out though, he had walked through the Loakes Park gates again, this time as assistant manager to Brian Lee. This partnership orchestrated no fewer than four league championships and two runners-up spots in the space of a mere seven years.

John was also assistant manager

John Reardon has recently been appointed club secretary. **DARREN BIGNALL** delves deep into the stalwart Blue's background.

to Ted Powell, Lee's replacement at the end of the 1975-76 season. In March of the following season, he took over as caretaker manager, and in May, he added another Wycombe Wanderers job to his collection, with his appointment as manager.

Managerial success again followed swiftly, with Wycombe finishing the 1977-78 season third in the league, and victorious in the Berks and Bucks Cup.

A spell away became the longest period apart from the club, but in 1986, John returned to try the assistant manager's jacket on again.

With Alan Gane at the helm, they led Wycombe to the Vauxhall-Opel Premier League Championship, and so promotion straight back up into the GM Vauxhall Conference.

John took up an additional career as a clairvoyant, quoted in May 1987 as saying: "We are not going into the Conference just to survive, we are not content with second best - we want to do well." A discerning visionary, no mistake!

He served briefly under Peter Suddaby, Gane's replacement, then under Jim Kelman, and was left holding the fort once again when Kelman resigned after THAT Met Police defeat in January 1990.

In the next match, with morale low and many players unsettled, he somehow managed to inspire his troops to thrash Barrow 3-0, a side previously unbeaten at home.

February saw the arrival of Martin O'Neill and as his assistant, John returned to Wembley in 1991 when Wycombe beat Kidderminster Harriers.

As the most illustrious period of Wycombe's history gathered pace, and the team raced to success in league and cup alike, John was still there, seemingly ever-present in his efforts for the club. Towards the start of this season, when John Goldsworthy was taken ill, he stepped in as caretaker secretary, and was made permanent in that capacity from January.

So what next for John? It's difficult to imagine where he could move on to from here.

One thing is certain, in each of his positions, he has taken care of Wanderers club, and provided a dedicated service that is to be admired and applauded.



Highfliers: The RAFSPA Hawks parachute team line up with Home and Away star Bruce Roberts

RAF freefall team drop in to say hi

THE RAFSPA Hawks Parachute Display team will appear at Adams Park before the Stockport County match on Saturday, March 4.

To see this special free pre-match entertainment, weather permitting, you need to arrive at Adams Park by 2.30pm.

●DISPLAY ITINERARY

●The aircraft arrives overhead five minutes before the display

●Full commentary from the time the aircraft is overhead

●The wind drift indicator is thrown from 2,200 feet approximately two minutes before the display

●A team of four skydivers will perform a linked exit from a maximum 4,000 feet

●All parachutes will be open by 2,000 feet

●The team will be wearing colour co-ordinated suits and equipment

●The team form a tight formation stack into the display arena

●The team will deploy brightly

coloured streamers and a flag at 1,500 feet

●The team land as close to the target cross as conditions allow

●Team members will line up and salute the crowd, deliver the Match ball and then distribute the free T-Shirts to each side of the arena.

The Royal Air Force Sports Parachute Association (RAFSPA) Hawks parachute display team are one of the most professional outfits in the country. Based at RAF Weston-on-the-Green in Oxfordshire, the team offer a colourful display package with flags and streamers. These are trailed by each member of the team after their parachutes are opened.

The standard team format is a four man display from a Cessna aircraft at 4,000 feet, giving only 15 seconds in which to link together while travelling in freefall at 120mph. At 3,000 feet they will move away from each other before opening their parachutes. Once under canopy, they will form a loose formation 'stack' before landing in the arena.



Open canopy: Parachutists prepare to land



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THE BLUES NEWS

Ron salutes big Cyrille



Mr Nice Guy: Cyrille would have been the best if he had a nasty streak, Atkinson believes

RON Atkinson and Cyrille Regis were made for each other.

Like bread and butter, bacon and eggs, milk and honey, it was as if Ronnie Allen signed teenage tank Regis with Atkinson in mind when he bought him from non-League Hayes in May 1977.

Atkinson inherited one of the most exciting young centre forwards in the country when he took over from Allen six months later – and 19-year-old Regis responded to the big-time treatment.

The two men remain best friends to this day, but a nagging regret lurks deep in the Atkinson conscience. "Cyrille was brilliant for me. I loved him when he was at Albion and then signed him for the Villa more than ten years later", recalled Atkinson.

"But my big regret is not taking him to Manchester United. That was his scene. He would have been magnificent up there," the former United and Aston Villa boss added.

"I talked about it for months and even tried to do a deal on one or two occasions, but without any joy."

"I tried to get him again when I took over at Sheffield Wednesday. Cyrille was at Coventry then and he would have jumped at the chance."

"But Snoz (John Sillett) wouldn't let him go. Cyrille asked

Blues News continues with the second part of a special feature on Cyrille Regis, which we reproduce with the kind permission of the Birmingham Sports Argus. It's further proof of the enormous respect which 'Big C' has throughout the football world. Wycombe supporters will surely agree with every word

for a transfer at one point, but Coventry wanted to keep him and that was that."

Atkinson continued: "The biggest thing about Cyrille is that he is one of the genuine nice guys – and he doesn't even have to work at it."

"He was one of the first to pick up the phone and ring me when I lost my job at Villa, because that's how he is. "In fact, if Cyrille had just a little bit more of a nasty streak in him, he would have been unstoppable as a player, absolutely unstoppable."

Atkinson added: "I still think he was short-changed to only get five England caps because during his time at Albion. He was one of our best centre forwards."

"People will talk about the game at Manchester United when we won 5-3. But for me, Cyrille's best game was against Everton in my first season at Albion."

"We won 3-1 and he scored

twice. For the first, he dragged Mick Lyons from the half-way line to the edge of the penalty box, which is no mean feat, before tucking the ball away."

"Then he chest-trapped a cross and passed the ball into the net past Georgie Wood from 20 yards. He was magnificent that day. He looked the best in the business."

As Atkinson contends, Regis may have lacked the killer instinct to send him soaring into the highest brackets of top-flight strikers.

But there was then – and still is now – an aura surrounding him that won the respect of his teammates and even his most fearsome opponents.

"Cyrille has always been a great influence in the dressing room," added Atkinson. "When he talks everyone listens."

"When I joined Villa and Cyrille was going on a free transfer from Coventry, I had no hesitation. He was made to measure for me. Kevin Moran once told me that he learned over the years never to upset Cyrille on the pitch."

"He might have a slow-burning fuse, but when he blew, he went off like a fire-cracker."

"Cyrille won that kind of respect because of ability and professionalism. Among the players I have worked with during my career, he is right up there near the top."

Building society picks up the Wycombe habit

UP THE BLUES!
By the Abbey National



UP the Blues is not the sort of statement you're likely to get from your financial adviser, is it?

Blues supporters can, though, because Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers Ltd (ANIFA) have signed up again for a second season and want to work with supporters and the club to produce an ongoing support for town and club alike.

Not many of you would know that, tucked away in Corporation Street, High Wycombe, is the head office of ANIFA, so the tie-up with a local home town company has benefits for the club and their supporters.

Mark Austin, when discussing our involvement this year, impressed upon us that, because we were 'local', it was very important to him and the club, and one of the main considerations in choosing us as sponsors.

'We want to work with Blues to help them get to the Premiership'

It was also beneficial that we have the backing of Abbey National Plc, a household name. ANIFA has always been 'local' and we intend it should remain so said Graham Lowe, the company's sales director.

"We are now one of the top six independent financial advisers in the country on size alone."

"We can safely say we are in the Premier League in our field and we want to work with the Blues to help them get to the Premiership," he explained.

People may not know about us and think they can go into the local Abbey

National plc branch to be able to speak to us. However that is not the case.

We are a specialist service which runs alongside the traditional service offered by the branches and we come to you, at a time and location to suit you.

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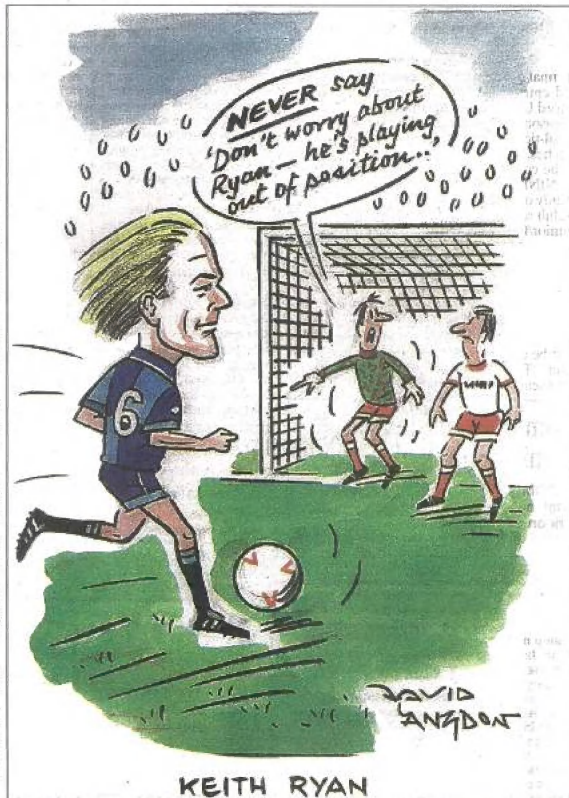
"Many people do not realise this service is available at their homes, on a non-obligation basis," says Colin Coomber, regional sales director of the local office of ANIFA in Frogmoor, High Wycombe.

One amusing story relates to the other offices in the organisation. They are at Chelmsford, Woking, Wigan, Sevenoaks, Birmingham, Glasgow, Bristol and Sheffield.

After the Blues' recent drubbing of Chelmsford in the FA Cup first round, the contact between offices has been less than usual because the chant 'four-nil to the Wanderers' has not gone down too well.

ANIFA is regulated by the Securities and Investments Board.

Your local consultant is Mark Lancaster and he can be contacted on (01494) 464440.



THE BLUES NEWS

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Perks for the loyal punters

A MEMBERS' night will be held at the Division Two match against Wrexham on Tuesday, April 11, 1995.

The benefits include:
 ●The right to bring an adult guest with you on the terraces (i.e. ideally someone who has not been to Adams Park before), for an introductory rate of £4 and the right to bring a child under 16 free with you on the terraces. These offers are exclusive to ALL terrace season ticket holders, True Blues and League line members.

●Seat season ticket holders being able to bring a guest in the Paddock for £4, space permitting and being able to bring a child into the Paddock free, space permitting. This second offer is exclusive to ALL seat season ticket holders and vice-presidents.

●Senior Blues will be allowed in for free on the terraces.

ALL the above special concessionary and complimentary tickets must be obtained in advance from the Commercial Offices at Adams Park.

Members' Night

●All members will receive a 30p discount on their match-day programme, by simply showing their membership card or season ticket at the special members programme stall in front of the Commercial Office.

This offer is open to ALL MEMBERS, i.e. Blues Super Cashline, Blues Club, Junior Blues, Senior Blues, True Blues, season ticket holders, League line members and Blues Travel Club. Anyone not purchasing their programme from the appointed seller will be charged full price. They will be sold on a one per person basis.

To receive one or more of the above benefits on Members' Night you must be one of the above named members. Should you wish to become a Super Blues Cashline Member, a Junior Blues, Senior Blues, True Blues or League line Member, call the club today on (01494) 472100.

To become a Blues Travel

Club Member for the remainder of this season contact Rena on (01494) 882916 or see her on matchdays in the Vere Suite Foyer.

Membership costs £5 entitling you to £1 off all official supporters executive coach non-members fares.

To become a season ticket holder for the remaining TEN home league matches of the 1994/95 season, please call into the Commercial Offices by 5.30pm TODAY. Prices, including the Rotherham United match tomorrow, are:- Seats £78 (concessions £70), terraces £56 (concessions £34).

All existing tickets dated January 21 are still valid. As the Wrexham match was postponed, please retain all existing tickets, including the reduced and complimentary ones.

The £20 worth of Wanderers in Town vouchers were given out at the Blackpool game. Members have until Saturday April 1, 1995, to redeem their £20 worth of Clubshop vouchers.

Buy your season tickets now

ANY person wishing to purchase a seat or terrace season ticket for the remainder of the 1994/95 season, must do so BEFORE 5.30pm on Friday, March 3, 1995.

Anybody purchasing a season ticket before the final deadline will of course gain guaranteed entry to both the Birmingham City and Oxford United all-ticket matches.

Season ticket holders also get priority for all all-ticket away matches and any play-off matches.

The cost of a season ticket for the remaining NINE League home matches (Stockport County onwards) is as follows:-

- Adult seat £70
- Junior/OAP seat £64
- Adult family stand seat £70
- Junior family stand seat £36
- Adult terrace £51
- Junior/OAP terrace £31

To qualify as a junior for the 1994/95 season you must still be under 16 on May 31, 1995. Junior family stand seat season tickets must be accompanied by an adult season seat ticket. The maximum three junior family stand seat season tickets per adult.

Promotion tussle against Birmingham is all-ticket

WYCOMBE Wanderers' Division Two match against Birmingham City at Adams Park on Saturday, March 18, is all-ticket.

Season ticket holders use theirs in the normal way. League line members can buy between: Wednesday, February 22-Friday, February 24, 9.30am-5 pm; Monday, February 27-Wednesday, March 1, 9.30am-5pm. League line postal applications must be accompanied by a cheque/SAE and your League line membership number.

The family stand tickets will be available from the commercial office from Wednesday, February 22, 9.30am-5pm.

General sale of tickets, on a one-for-one basis, is on March 1, between 6.30pm-8pm. Remaining tickets go on sale the next day. Entrance Two turnstile will be selling tickets for the Bucks Free Press Terrace. Entrance Three is for the Davenport Vernon Terrace. Tickets cost £9 seat for adults; £6.50 (concessions £4) for adult terrace; £4 for junior family stand.

Reductions for junior Blues

THE club will compensate junior terrace season ticket holders for the two Quid-a-Kid days this season.

Unfortunately, as we have not had a home Auto Windscreens Shield match, this will now not happen this season. Instead, the club has decided to give an additional £5-discount to all 1994/95 junior terrace season ticket holders on renewal next season, which more than covers the theoretical £4.60 apparent loss of value this season.

Most existing junior terrace season ticket holders paid £76, which works out at £3.30 per match for 23 games.

Take off the £2 for the two Quid-a-Kid matches and this leaves £4.60 hence the £5 discount offered.

Experiment

●Tomorrow sees the start of a Family Terrace experiment in the Davenport Vernon Vauxhall Stand, for the Division II match against Rotherham United, which will be a no-smoking section like the existing Family Stand.

The aim is to help children have a clearer view.

We have revised the proposed entrance price for the Family Terrace, to ensure existing Junior Terrace and OAP season ticket holders do not lose out.

The admission prices are £6.50 as usual for adults, but only £3.30 for OAPs and children 15 and under.

All tickets for this area must be either purchased in advance or if you are a season ticket holder - obtained in advance (using voucher 14) from the Commercial Offices by 5.30pm today.

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THE BLUES NEWS

I rest my case with the players here

By Martin O'Neill

BY the time you get to read these notes, I am hoping that Terry Evans will have put pen to paper and signed a new contract which will keep him at Wycombe Wanderers FC at least until June 1997.

Terry has been a colossus for us since he joined from Brentford about 18 months ago and his own commitment to our cause has been influentially unwavering.

Jason Cousins signed for another two-and-a-half years at the beginning of the month and I was equally delighted to be able to work out a deal which keeps him reasonably happy for another period.

Now all he has to do is start performing as consistently well as last season to keep ME reasonably happy. Re-signing players who have done magnificently for Wycombe during the last few seasons, and who, in my judgment, still have a big part to play in the future of this club, gives me more satisfaction than signing someone who is new to the club.

Which leads me rather appropriately to the apparent mayhem caused by Alan Parry when his own views, expressed at the Independent Supporters Club meeting, were aired in the Bucks Free Press Midweek this week.

Alan was speaking candidly when asked what the manager had been doing to attract new players to the club. It seemed from the tone of the article that almost every time I tried to sign a new player, I had been thwarted by the old fickle Finger of Fate. Actually, for the most part, this is not true. Generally, I have pulled out of



'I'm a bit better than okay': Wycombe boss Martin knows his onions where talented players are concerned

deals because players' demands exceed, by a lengthy way, the pay structure at the club.

The instances quoted in the paper are Louie Donowa, of Birmingham, and Robbie Dennison, of Wolves. I had agreed fees with both clubs for the individuals concerned, but was unable to agree personal terms with the players themselves. No fantastic big deal!!

The fact that both have gone on to win back first team places at their respective clubs, only goes to prove what I have known for a long time anyway - that I am an excellent judge of a footballer.

With the Peter Thorne transfer, I confess to being more than a little disappointed. Having seen the

lad play for Blackburn's reserves in late November, I followed up my interest with a firm bid when one else in the country had even heard of the lad.

My first, second, and third offers were refused, but my fourth offer was finally accepted by Blackburn who asked me to wait over the weekend in case they had a string of injuries.

Unfortunately my interest triggered off a bit of a rush, and Kenny Dalglish eventually sold him to his old friend Steve McMahon at Swindon Town, which he was perfectly entitled to do.

I felt the lad could be something special, if given the chance. Obviously other people eventually

thought so as well. I was disappointed because of the circumstances just stated and that such efforts had come to nothing in the end. Such is life.

Miguel Desouza, a different type of player to Thorne - but with enormous potential, has only stepped in to score four goals in three League games and pay off some of his transfer fee.

Honestly, he could be anything, he could playing for Maidenhead or Real Madrid in three year's time. It's entirely up to him.

I think he will get decent tuition at this club to give him a head start.

So to the signing of Gary Patterson. The lad was unaware that he had a problem with his back which came to the fore when extensive medicals were done. He had been able to train and play League matches, but had discomfort when not properly warmed up.

This had been a problem for some while at his previous club Shrewsbury, but the full extent was only realised later. He will need to have proper attention focused on his back in the summer, but can play, thanks to physio David Jones, with much less discomfort than before, or so Gary tells me, so desperate is he to play in our first team.

The lad can definitely do a bit, to coin an old footballing phrase, and since my judgment on players over a five-year period at this club has been a bit better than okay so far, time will tell on everything and everyone.

The Guppy transfer, I have no intention of trying to explain again. At £35,000, Michael Bell, who cost one fifth of what Guppy was sold for, has been brilliant for us. The case rests.

Win tickets to see Blues play Bradford

THERE are two dozen pairs of tickets to be won for Wycombe Wanderers' Division Two match against Bradford City at Adams Park on Tuesday, March 7 (ko 7.45pm).

All correct entries will be put into a draw for the prizes. The competition closes at 10am on Wednesday, March 1, 1995. Send or deliver your entry to the Commercial Office, Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, Adams Park, Hillbottom Road, Sands, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 4HL.

ENTRY FORM

Full Name

Address

.....

Postcode

Telephone Number

Age

■ Please circle one answer for each question

Question One: What is the name of Bradford City's Stadium?

- a) The Old Den
- b) The City Ground
- c) The Valley Parade
- d) London Road Ground

Question Two: Wycombe Wanderers always charge the same price for concessions to home and away fans. What is the normal concessionary price for a child under 16 or OAP at Adams Park?

- a) £3.50
- b) £4
- c) £4.50
- d) £5

Question Three: What is Bradford City's official club nickname?

- a) The Bantams
- b) The Hornets
- c) The Bees
- d) The C's

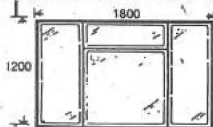
Rules of the competition: Entrants must be 16 or over and all entries should be clearly marked 'Bradford City Competition'. Employees of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club Ltd and the Bucks Free Press Group are excluded. Only one entry per household permitted. Judges' decisions will be final and no correspondence will be entered into. All winners will be notified by post. The correct answers will be published in the Bradford City matchday programme as well as the March edition of the Blues News.

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